



Chapter 11 Youth Development

Cluster 9 Asset Profile

After a number of programs and services for young people in Cluster 9 were identified and mapped, participants evaluated whether or not youth in the cluster were being adequately served. In general, the group felt that the cluster lacked a sufficient number of large park spaces for youth recreation. Adams Butzel Recreation Center stood out in most people's minds as the main location for large recreational activities. Map A24 shows the locations of the parks and recreation centers located in Cluster 9. The lack of knowledge of existing programs and services due to poor dissemination of information was cited by many to be a key cause of the inadequate level of services and programs being provided to youth. A number of quality programs exist but are not being taken advantage of because of poor communication or interest within the community.

Focus Group participants would like to see more green space and ball fields located throughout the cluster, as well as an increased level of parental involvement and volunteerism to support those attempting to provide quality services to the young people in the cluster. The athletic programs sponsored by the Grandmont-Rosedale community were cited as a key example of parental involvement and successful programming for youth. The need for more programs which encourage investigation and training in science and technology was also stated. Programs of this type would provide young people with a solid foundation in preparing to become leaders in the job market of the future. The development of a quality shopping area with a "Main Street" appeal was also cited as an instrumental part of youth development in Cluster 9. Not only would a commercial district of this provide young people with a place to "hang out", but it would also contain a concentration of entry-level positions for teens to enter the job force.

Existing Services and Programs

Grandmont Rosedale

- Youth Sports leagues

Grace Hospital

- Youth Sports leagues

Burns School

- Adopt-a-School Program

Detroit Public Library Chaney Branch

Detroit Urban League

- Mentoring

Detroit Police Department

- Police Athletic League
- Mentoring

Adams Butzel Community Center

- Recreation

Primary Youth Development Issues

- The need to establish a high level of accountability for youth,
- The lack of infrastructure that is aesthetically pleasing, i.e. beautiful schools, parks, and neighborhoods.
- The negative and self-esteem damaging messages conveyed by the mass media, especially through advertisements, news programs, and music.
- Insufficient training in computers and other high technology areas for youth through the school system.
- Inadequate curricula in the schools that is not responding to the changes in society and the job force.
- The lack of instruction for youth in financial responsibility and moral issues.
- The disturbing level of gang activity in the cluster.

Response to Issues

- Challenging the local universities and libraries to fill the gaps in the education system. UDM was noted as making attempts to meet some of these community needs, it was suggested that Marygrove College improve its level of community outreach by opening its grounds to the public by creating walking paths and other amenities for passive recreation.
- Increasing the involvement of local block clubs, encouraging them to create neighborhood safe zones and form partnerships to address community issues.
- Survey young people about their needs and concerns.
- Create more opportunities for youth to feel good about themselves and have a positive outlook on the future.